

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 13-18, 22, 23, 27-37, 39, 42, 43, 55-58, 61-69, and 71 have been canceled. Claims 44-48, 51-54, and 70 have been amended. In addition, Claims 72-104 have been newly added. Upon entry of the above amendment, Claims 44-48, 51-54, 70, and 72-104 are pending. Each of the amendment and new claims is supported by the original specification. No new matter is added. Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Claims 44-48, 51-54, and 70 as amended are patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over cited prior art because the cited prior art as a whole fails to teach or suggest each recited feature.

For example, Claim 44 as amended recites:

a passivation film covering said driver circuit, said passivation film having a contact hole to allow an electrical connection between at least one of said thin film transistors and said pixel circuit;
a wiring formed over said passivation film to form said electrical connection;

The cited prior art, including Mawatari, fails to teach or suggest these features. Hence, the Claim 44 and its dependent Claims 45-48, 51-54, and 70 are patentable under 35 USC 103(a).

Page 3 of the Office Action contends that that Mawatari discloses a passivation film covered TFT having a contact hole for electrical connecting through a tapered configuration. Mawatari's disclosure appears to lack any support for this contention. In particular, Mawatari teaches that "the driver elements 118 and 119 are not separated from the glass substrate 101 due to expansion or contraction caused by temperature change" in col. 8, lines 43-46. Therefore, a passivation film cannot be formed in Mawatari's device to cover the driver elements 118 and 119. Nothing in Mawatari appears to suggest the passivation film recited in Claim 44. FIG. 4 in Mawatari and the corresponding textual description, for example, do not provide any indication on the recited passivation film.

Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office to provide specific teachings in Mawatari to substantiate the rejection.

In addition to lack of teaching of the passivation film, Mawatari and other cited prior art further fail to disclose the wiring formed over the passivation film as recited in Claim 44 as amended. This further supports the conclusion that Claims 44-48, 51-54, and 70 as amended are patentable under 35 USC 103(a).

New Claims 72-104 are patentable based on the above arguments as well as on their own merits. For example, new Claims 72-89 recite insulating film over the driver circuit.

New Claims 90-104 recite features supported by FIG. 1B. Nothing in the cited prior art appears to suggest such features. This reason alone renders Claims 72-104 patentable over the cited prior art.

Therefore, all pending claims should be distinctly patentable over the cited prior art and be in full condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request an official notice of allowance at an early date.

An Information Disclosure Statement submitting U.S. Patent NO. 6,118,502 is filed concurrently with this response.

Enclosed is payment of a fee of \$110 for the Extension of Time in filing this response. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 13-18, 22, 23, 27-37, 39, 42, 43, 55-58, 61-69 and 71 have been cancelled.

Claims 44-48, 51-54 and 70 have been amended as follows:

-- 44. (Amended) An active matrix type display device comprising:

a substrate;

a pixel circuit formed over said substrate for switching pixels of said display device;

a driver circuit comprising thin film transistors adhered to said substrate by a resin;

a passivation film covering said driver circuit, said passivation film having a contact hole to allow an electrical connection between at least one of said thin film transistors and said pixel circuit; [and]

a wiring formed over said passivation film to form said electrical connection; and

a sealing member over said substrate, wherein said sealing member encloses said pixel circuit and said driver circuit.

45. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein said passivation film comprises at least two

layers having different etching rates, and said contact hole has a tapered configuration.

46. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein each of said thin film transistors has a channel region comprising crystalline silicon.

47. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein said substrate comprises a plastic.

48. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein said driver circuit is overlapped by another substrate opposed to said substrate.

51. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein said passivation film comprises polyimide.

52. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein said passivation film comprises silicon oxide.

53. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein said pixel circuit comprises a first plurality of transparent conductive films and a second plurality

of transparent conductive films extending across said first plurality of transparent conductive films.

54. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein said pixel circuit comprises pixel electrodes connected to TFTs.

70. (Amended) An active matrix type display device according to claim 44 wherein said driver circuit is formed from a stick substrate separate from said substrate. --